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Connecticut Tree Wardens

UConn Extension Tree Warden Outreach Program Background

In 1901 the Connecticut legislature passed a law mandating the appointment of a “tree warden” in all municipalities. This person then has care and control over all municipal public trees and shrubs in that community. The law guides the appointment, roles, and responsibilities of the tree warden.

Since 1991, UConn Extension Tree Warden Outreach has provided tree wardens, deputy tree wardens, elected and appointed public officials, and community forestry volunteers with education and assistance on tree warden duties, roles and responsibilities and urban and community forestry. In 1992, the program formed the Tree Wardens’ Association of Connecticut, Inc., to provide a means for tree wardens and deputy tree wardens to come together through peer participation to increase and expand their knowledge and to motivate them to perform their duties well.

In 1998, UConn Extension Tree Warden Outreach collaborated in creating the Tree Warden School in cooperation with the Tree Wardens’ Association of Connecticut, Inc. Over 300 tree wardens, deputy tree wardens, community forestry volunteers, arborists, landscape architects, and chief elected and appointed officials have completed the program.

Meeting New (2013) Tree Warden Qualification Requirements

In 2013, the state legislature revised the state tree warden law requiring each city and town to appoint a “qualified” person. This qualified person may be the municipal tree warden or a deputy tree warden. Qualified person simply means (a) the tree warden has successfully completed (and passed) the Tree Warden School, (b) be a Connecticut Licensed Arborist, or (c) be a deputy tree warden in the municipality who has successfully completed (and passed) the Tree Warden School.

The Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protections is mandated with ensuring Connecticut state law regarding tree warden and the municipal qualified person laws are satisfied. UConn Extension Tree Warden Outreach is charged with maintaining records for this mandate and for ensuring and conducting the Tree Warden School.

UConn Extension Tree Warden Outreach is conducted in close cooperation and collaboration the Tree Wardens’ Association of Connecticut, Inc. Founded in 1992, the association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating tree wardens and others about tree warden roles and responsibilities (in the proper care and control of ornamental trees, shade trees, and shrubs for the purpose of assuring their continued preservation and natural beauty) through education and advocacy. The association partners with UConn Extension in meeting the state tree warden law and with the continued professionalization of tree wardens, deputy tree wardens, and elected and appointed officials.

Tree Warden School

Since 1998, UConn Extension and the Tree Wardens’ Association of Connecticut, Inc. have partnered in conducting the annual Tree Warden School. Since the initial class, over 300 tree wardens, deputy tree wardens, chief elected officials, municipal engineers, community forestry volunteers, and others have taken the course. Most chose to take the final exam.


With the 2013 revisions to tree warden state law, anyone who took the course during and prior to 2013 will be regarded as qualified to serve as the qualified tree warden or deputy tree warden in a municipality.

Beginning in and after 2014, anyone seeking to be qualified under the 2013 revision will need to be (a) take the course and pass the exam or (b) be a Connecticut Licensed Arborist.

The Tree Warden School is annually conducted each fall. See Schedule below.

For information contact Robert M. Ricard, Senior Extension Educator, UConn Extension. (robert.ricard@uconn.edu).

2016 School Details

Where	Connecticut Forest and Park Association offices, Route 66, Middlefield, Connecticut
When	Six Wednesdays. September 14, 21, 28. October 5, 12, 16
Time	8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon with one 15 minute break
Exam	An exam will be given the last day (sixth class). A grade of 70% or greater must be achieved to pass.
Attendance	Five out of six classes must be attended to be eligible to take the exam.
Food	Coffee, juices and pastries provided on arrival and throughout the morning.
Fee	\$300.00 for members of the Tree Warden's Association of Connecticut, Inc. \$350 for non-members.
Apply	 2016 Application form

2016 School Agenda | [pdf of School Agenda](#)

Date	Topic	Description	Instructors
09/14/16 (Wednesday)	Introduction to the Tree Warden School	Covers the course, course objectives, course content, and exam requirements	Dr. Robert M. Ricard Senior Extension Educator UConn Extension
	How A Tree Works: Tree Biology and Identification	Covers basic tree structure and function.	Glenn Dreyer Director and Adjunct Professor Connecticut College Arboretum
09/21/16 (Wednesday)	Why Trees Fall Apart: Insects, Disease and Injury	Covers common insect and disease, as well as mechanical damage.	Tom Rathier , Emeritus Soil Scientist, Diagnostician CT Agricultural Experiment Sta Valley Lab
09/28/16 (Wednesday)	Tree Risk Assessment	Why trees can be risks and how to assess and mediate risk	Dr. Neil Hendrickson Bartlett Tree Experts
10/05/16 (Wednesday)	Principals of arboriculture and Urban Forestry	Proper tree care practices, removal, planting, pruning, mulching, staking, and OSHA and ANSI standards	Dr. Dave Bloniarz Research Urban Forester Urban Natural Resources Institute USDA Forest Service
10/12/16 (Wednesday)	CT State Tree Warden Statutes, Basic tree law, and Public Hearings	Learn basic tree law and the roles and responsibilities of Connecticut Tree Wardens. Also learn how to run a public tree hearing	Dr. Robert M. Ricard Senior Extension Educator UConn Extension

10/19/16 (Wednesday)	Review and exam	Last class to cover remaining subjects and taking of the final exam	Dr. Robert M. Ricard Senior Extension Educator UConn Extension
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State Tree Warden Qualifications Advisory Committee

[VIEW PDF](#)

Tree Wardens, Deputy Tree Wardens and Qualifications

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If there are any questions, errors, or omissions in this list, email [Dr. Bob Ricard](#) to advise.

Connecticut Tree Warden State Statutes

General Statutes of Connecticut - Titles, Chapter 451 - Public Shade Trees and Tree Protection Examining Board

- Secs. 23-1 to 23-3. Appointment and term of commission
- Sec. 23-58. Tree wardens: appointment: compensation: supervision
- Sec. 23-59. Powers and duties of wardens
- Sec. 23-59a. Required coursework for tree wardens
- Sec. 23-60. Appropriations
- Sec. 23-65. Posting or distributing advertisements

Cooperators and Additional Information

- Tree Wardens' Association of Connecticut, Inc.
- Connecticut Urban Forest Council, Inc.
- CT-DEEP Urban Forestry

Important References on Tree Wardens

<u>Defining Urban Forestry (2005)</u>
<u>Increasing Tree Warden Education and Skills Through Volunteer Certification in Connecticut (2003)</u>
<u>Tree Wardens Balance Conservation and Safety (2003)</u>
<u>Tree Warden Laws (1996)</u>
<u>Learning Preferences, Job Satisfaction, Community Interactions, and Urban Forestry Practices of New England (USA) Tree Wardens (2006)</u>
<u>CT Tree Warden Practices: Results of the 1991 Survey (2001)</u>
<u>CT Tree Warden Practices: Results of the 2001 Survey (2001)</u>
<u>Connecticut's Tree Wardens: Qualifications, Education and Voluntary Certification (2004)</u>
<u>Town Tree Wardens (1993-94)</u>
<u>Shade Trees and Tree Wardens: Revising the History of Urban Forestry (2005)</u>
<u>Connecticut's Tree Wardens: Qualifications, Education and Voluntary Certification (2005)</u>
<u>An Overview of Urban Forestry State Statutes (1997)</u>

UConn Extension Tree Warden Outreach Program Coordination

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Funding & Partners

CLEAR is a partnership of the [Department of Extension](#) and the Department of [Natural Resources and the Environment](#) at the [College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources](#), and the [CT Sea Grant College Program](#). Support for CLEAR comes from UConn and from state and federal grants.

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